This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 6, 2007. Claims 12 to 15, 27 to 30, 38 to 41 and 43 remain pending in the application, of which Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 12, 27, 38 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,622,266 (Goddard), Claims 1, 3, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 28 to 30, 39 to 41, 46 and 47 were rejected under § 103(a) over Goddard in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,714,977 (Fowler), and Claims 4 and 15 were rejected under § 103(a) over Goddard in view of Fowler and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,307,643 (Okada). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

According to the invention, e-mail reply destinations indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations which are different from one another and which correspond to respective statuses of a device are registered. Then, after a status of the device is obtained and a message is obtained based on the obtained status, transmission data is generated. The transmission data is generated according to the obtained message, destination information indicating a destination of e-mail, and according to reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations corresponding to the obtained status. Thus, when the e-mail is sent to the destination, replies are sent by the receiving device to the reply destination corresponding to the status of the device.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 12 is directed to a data transfer processing apparatus which controls data transfer in a device, comprising a registration unit that registers reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply

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destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of the device, a status obtaining unit that obtains status information about one of the plurality of statuses of the device, a message obtaining unit that obtains a message according to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, a transmission data generation unit that generates transmission data according to the message obtained by the message obtaining unit, according to destination information indicating a destination of electronic mail, and according to the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations corresponding to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations corresponding to the status information obtained by the status obtaining unit, the reply destination indicated by the reply destination information being a destination for a reply to the electronic mail, and an electronic mail transmission unit that transmits as electronic mail the transmission data generated by the transmission data generation unit to the destination.

Claims 27, 38 and 43 are device, method, and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 12.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 12, 27, 38 and 43, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of registering reply destination information indicating each of a plurality of reply destinations, the plurality of reply destinations being different from each other and corresponding to a respective plurality of statuses of a device, and generating transmission data according to an obtained message, according to destination information indicating a

destination of electronic mail, and according to reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations corresponding to obtained status information, wherein the generated transmission data includes the destination information and the reply destination information indicating one of the plurality of reply destinations corresponding to the obtained status information, the reply destination indicated by the reply destination information being a destination for a reply to the electronic mail.

Goddard is merely seen to disclose that mutually different e-mail addresses have been previously designated according to respective alert conditions, whereby an appropriate alert (e-mail) corresponding to an alert type can be transmitted. However, unlike the present invention, the e-mail disclosed in Goddard does not include reply information indicating a reply destination corresponding to an obtained status of the device. That is, in Goddard, an e-mail indicating the alert is merely transmitted to the recipient, but no reply information is included such that the recipient can contact an appropriate agent to attend to the status.

Fowler is not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Goddard. In this regard, Fowler is seen to disclose a system for monitoring a space (e.g., a room) utilizing sensors, where an alarm can be sent over the internet. An HTML (web) interface can be used to set-up the monitoring system, including setting up a primary and a secondary e-mail address that a report can be sent to. However, both the primary and secondary e-mail addresses are for the same alarm. (see Fig. 17) Fowler, however, fails to teach the claimed features regarding the reply destination information being included in the generated transmission data. Thus, a combination of Goddard and Fowler would not have resulted in the present invention.

Okada is merely seen to disclose that a multiple notification results can be sent to the same e-mail address. In Okada, a fax communication is sent to a facsimile machine and a result of the fax communication is requested to be sent to the transmitting devcie. Depending on the result of the communication, a result notification message may be sent to a preset e-mail address instead. For instance, if the result is a PAPER JAM, COMMUNICATION ERROR, or NO PAPER in the receiving device, the receiving device may sent an e-mail notification to address 123.456.789.00 (see Fig. 23). If the result is NETWORK ABNORMAL or QUEUED FOR PRINTING, the result notification may be sent to address 101.202.303.44. Thus, while different notification messages may be sent to different addresses, Okada fails to teach the claimed features regarding the reply destination information. Accordingly, any permissible combination of Goddard, Fowler and/or Goddard would not have resulted in the present invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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